

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH LANSING

ANDY LEVIN ACTING DIRECTOR

September 15, 2010

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The Michigan Asian Pacific American Commission states:

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1388 obligates state and local law enforcement agencies and officers, upon a "lawful stop, detention, or arrest" to determine an individual's immigration status where "reasonable suspicion" exists that he or she is an "alien" and is "unlawfully present in the United States".

WHEREAS, it is unclear what constitutes "reasonable suspicion" that would give rise to believing that an individual is an "alien" and is "unlawfully present in the United States" to warrant further inquiry into his or her immigration status.

WHEREAS if enacted, the implementation of SB 1388 will result in mandating racial profiling by law enforcement officers. It will obligate police officers to visually determine if a person is an "alien" and is "unlawfully present in the United States". Enactment of the law will lead to racial mistrust and harassment of both documented and undocumented individuals with adverse consequences to the APA community in the State of Michigan.

WHEREAS, our state is experiencing the highest unemployment rate in this nation, and a struggling economy. It is certainly not the time to introduce bills that are destructive to the sense of community in Michigan. Senate Bill 1388 is neither constructive nor does it encourage individuals and companies from across our nation and around the world to do business in our state. Such fear-based legislation will not improve the lives of the quarter of a million and growing APA community nor the lives of all residents of the State of Michigan.

WHEREAS enforcement of Senate Bill 1388, if enacted, would likely result in a violation of the 14th Amendment and Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution.

The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission is opposed to any such proposed legislation like SB 1388 which engenders racial profiling, creating tiered-citizenship or racism of any kind, and stands firmly in support of the APA community and its members who may be targeted by enactment of bills like Senate Bill 1388.

BE IT RESOLVED

The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission is opposed to Senate Bill 1388, also known as the "Immigration Law Enforcement Act."